

## Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CG-00 DOTE-00 OIC-02

COME-00 /035 R

DRAFTED BY IO/TRC:CHARTLEY:AMP

APPROVED BY IO/TRC - WALKER DIAMANTI

EB/MA:CTAYLOR

COAST GUARD: CAPT. HINTZE

EUR/NE:SWORREL

EUR/SOV:WKUSHLIS (INFORMED)

----- 041496

R 301612Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS STATE 214565

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, EWWT, OCON, AORG,IMCO

SUBJECT: 37TH IMCO COUNCIL: ESTABLISHMENT BY MEMBER GOVERN-  
MENTS OF PERMANENT MISSIONS TO IMCO

REF: IMCO SECRETARIAT CIRCULAR LTR. OF JULY 14, 1976

FOR SHIPPING ATTACHE

1. IN CIRCULAR LETTER UNDER REFERENCE, IMCO SECRETARIAT  
HAS NOTED THAT SECGEN HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY COUNCIL TO  
ASCERTAIN WHICH MEMBER GOVERNMENTS MIGHT WISH TO ESTABLISH  
PERMANENT MISSIONS TO IMCO IF RELEVANT PROVISIONS WERE  
INCORPORATED IN UK-IMCO HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT. SECGEN  
HAS ALSO ASKED FOR EARLY COMMENTS AND VIEWS FROM MEMBER  
STATES ON THIS MATTER SO THAT THESE VIEWS CAN BE MADE  
AVAILABLE TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE OF  
OCTOBER 1976 37TH COUNCIL SESSION. ACTION REQUESTED:  
EMBASSY LONDON SHOULD SUBMIT FOLLOWING LETTER TO IMCO CON-  
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TAINING USG POSITION AND COMMENTS.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: THE UNITED STATES PRESENTLY WOULD HAVE NO INTENTION OF ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT MISSION TO IMCO IF THE HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT WERE TO BE REVISED TO ALLOW FOR THIS EVENTUALITY.

3. QUOTE: THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT THE DISADVANTAGES TO REVISION OF THE HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT FOR THIS PURPOSE ARE SUFFICIENT TO WARRANT FURTHER CAREFUL STUDY BEFORE SUCH A DECISION IS TAKEN.

4. QUOTE: THE GREATEST ADVERSE CONSEQUENCE RESULTING FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT MISSIONS, IN THE U.S. VIEW, WOULD BE THE INCREASE IN IMCO'S WORKLOAD AND BUDGET. AT THE VERY TIME WHEN IMCO IS TAKING ON ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPENSES, SUCH AS PROVIDING SECRETARIAT SUPPORT FOR THE OCEAN DUMPING CONVENTION AND POSSIBLY FOR INMARSAT, THE ALMOST CERTAIN PROLIFERATION OF MISSIONS AND THE NUMBER OF THEIR DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL WOULD PLACE A SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL BURDEN ON THE ORGANIZATION. SUCH A BURDEN WOULD BE CONTRARY TO RECENT EFFORTS BY MEMBER STATES TO REDUCE IMCO'S BUDGETARY EXPENSES. WITH RESPECT TO THE ARGUMENT THAT INCREASED MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES - SUCH AS SECRETARIAT SUPPORT FOR THE OCEAN DUMPING CONVENTION - WARRANT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT MISSIONS, IMCO IS STILL ONE OF THE SMALLEST UN ORGANIZATIONS. THEREFORE, THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT, FOR THE PRESENT, THE ORGANIZATION CAN OPERATE EFFICIENTLY UNDER THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY AN OFFICIAL OF THE MEMBER STATES' EXISTING LONDON DIPLOMATIC STAFF CAN BE DESIGNATED AS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO IMCO.

5. QUOTE: THE U.S. ALSO QUESTIONS WHETHER MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD WANT TO UNDERTAKE THE EXPENSE OF MAINTAINING A PERMANENT MISSION WHEN THE CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS SEEM TO BE WORKING WELL. WHILE A REVISION OF THE HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT WOULD MAKE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT MISSION OPTIONAL, DEVELOPING STATES WOULD MOST LIKELY FEEL COMPELLED TO FOLLOW THE LEAD OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

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TRIES SO AS TO RETAIN EQUAL STATUS.

6. QUOTE: FINALLY, THE UNITED STATES HAS NOTED THE VIEWS OF A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT MISSIONS COULD REDUCE THE ATTENDANCE OF EXPERTS AT IMCO MEETINGS AND THEREBY BE AGAINST THE ORGANIZATION'S BEST INTERESTS. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS, ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE214565  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** CHARTLEY:AMP  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760367-0283  
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**Office:** ORIGIN IO  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** harterdg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 11 JAN 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by ReddocGW>; RELEASED <11 JAN 2005 by harterdg>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2005 by harterdg>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** 37TH IMCO COUNCIL: ESTABLISHMENT BY MEMBER GOVERN- MENTS OF PERMANENT MISSIONS TO IMCO  
**TAGS:** PORG, EWWT, OCON, AORG, US, IMCO  
**To:** LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006